

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

Substantive
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1. A articulating hemiarthroplasty prosthesis for implantation into the human anatomy, comprising a cup for engagement with the human anatomy, said cup including a portion thereof having a reduced thickness to permit at least a portion thereof to be mechanically separated from the cup to form an opening therethrough.

2. The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the portion of said cup having a reduced thickness is adapted to block the flow of synovial fluid therethrough.

3. The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the portion of said cup having a reduced thickness has a generally cylindrical shape.

4. The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the portion of said cup having a reduced thickness has a thickness of around 0.10 inches or less.

5. The prosthesis of claim 1, further comprising:

A stem;

a head operably associated with said stem; and

a liner positioned between said cup and said head.

6. The prosthesis of claim 1, further comprising a second portion thereof spaced from the first mentioned portion thereof, said second portion having a reduced

thickness to permit at least a portion thereof to be mechanically separated from the cup to form an opening therethrough whereby at least one of the first mentioned portion and the second portion may be selected to be mechanically separated from the cup to provide an opening for securing the cup to the human anatomy.

7. The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the portion of said cup having a reduced thickness is adapted to be sheared by a punch tool.

8. A tool for use with a articulating hemiarthroplasty cup prosthesis to remove a portion of the cup, the portion having a first cup surface and a second opposed cup surface, said tool comprising:

a first component having a first tool surface adapted to conform with the first cup surface; and

a second component having a second tool surface adapted to conform with the second cup surface, said first component and said second component adapted to cooperate with each other to remove the portion of the cup by placing the portion of the cup between said first component and said second component and by advancing said first component toward said second component.

9. The tool of claim 8, wherein said first component and said second component are pivotally attached to each other.

10. A cup for engagement with the human anatomy for use in an articulating hemiarthroplasty prosthesis for implantation into the human anatomy, said cup comprising a

portion thereof having a reduced thickness to permit at least a portion thereof to be mechanically separated from the cup to form an opening therethrough.

11. The cup of claim 10, wherein the portion of said cup having a reduced thickness is adapted to block the flow of synovial fluid therethrough.

12. The cup of claim 10, wherein the portion of said cup having a reduced thickness has a generally cylindrical shape.

13. The cup of claim 10, wherein the portion of said cup having a reduced thickness has a thickness of around 0.10 inches or less.

14. The cup of claim 10, wherein the portion of said cup having a reduced thickness is adapted to be sheared by a punch tool.

15. A hip prosthesis for implantation into the human anatomy, comprising a cup for engagement with the acetabulum, said cup including a portion thereof having a reduced thickness to permit at least a portion thereof to be mechanically separated from the cup to form an opening therethrough, the portion of said cup having a reduced thickness being adapted to block the flow of synovial fluid therethrough.

16. The hip prosthesis of claim 15, wherein the

portion of said cup having a reduced thickness has a generally cylindrical shape.

17. The hip prosthesis of claim 15, further comprising:

A stem;

a head operably associated with said stem; and

a liner positioned between said cup and said head.

18. The prosthesis of claim 15, wherein the portion of said cup having a reduced thickness is adapted to be sheared by a punch tool.

19. The hip prosthesis of claim 15, further comprising a second portion thereof spaced from the first mentioned portion thereof, said second portion having a reduced thickness to permit at least a portion thereof to be mechanically separated from the cup to form an opening therethrough whereby at least one of the first mentioned portion and the second portion may be selected to be mechanically separated to provide an opening for securing the cup to the acetabulum.

20. A method for providing total hip arthroplasty comprising the steps of:

providing an acetabulum hip screw;

providing a cup with a plurality of potential mounting portions thereof each portion having a reduced cross section;

determining a mounting location on the acetabulum which will accommodate an acetabulum hip screw;

aligning one of the mounting portions with the mounting location;

removing at least a portion of one of the mounting portions to form an opening through the cup;

placing the acetabulum hip screw into the opening; and

securing the cup to the acetabulum by screwing the hip screw into the acetabulum.

2025-01-01 10:00:00